



Wyoming
Department
of Health

Commit to your health.

Rural and Frontier Health Division

Ron Pearson
Administrator
June 17, 2008



Wyoming
Department
of Health

Commit to your health.

So, why do we have a Rural and Frontier Health Division ?

WDH Director

“The importance of rural and frontier health issues in Wyoming is paramount. We need a stronger focus and profile for efforts such as enhancing recruitment and retention of physicians and other healthcare providers for our state, and strengthening our multicultural health capabilities.”

**Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H
Director, Wyoming Dept of Health
State Health Officer
April 2008**

What's different about Rural Healthcare?

- **Economic factors**
- **Cultural and social differences**
- **Educational shortcomings**
- **Isolation of living in remote rural areas**
- **Less likely to have healthcare coverage**
- **High accident, suicide and death rates**
- **Poorer and more food stamp recipients**
- **Lack of mental health services**

WYOMING

Rural

- 364,727 people
- 70 percent of total population

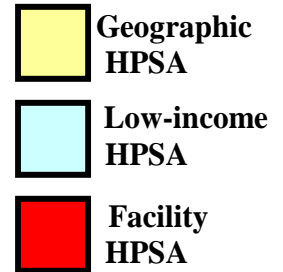
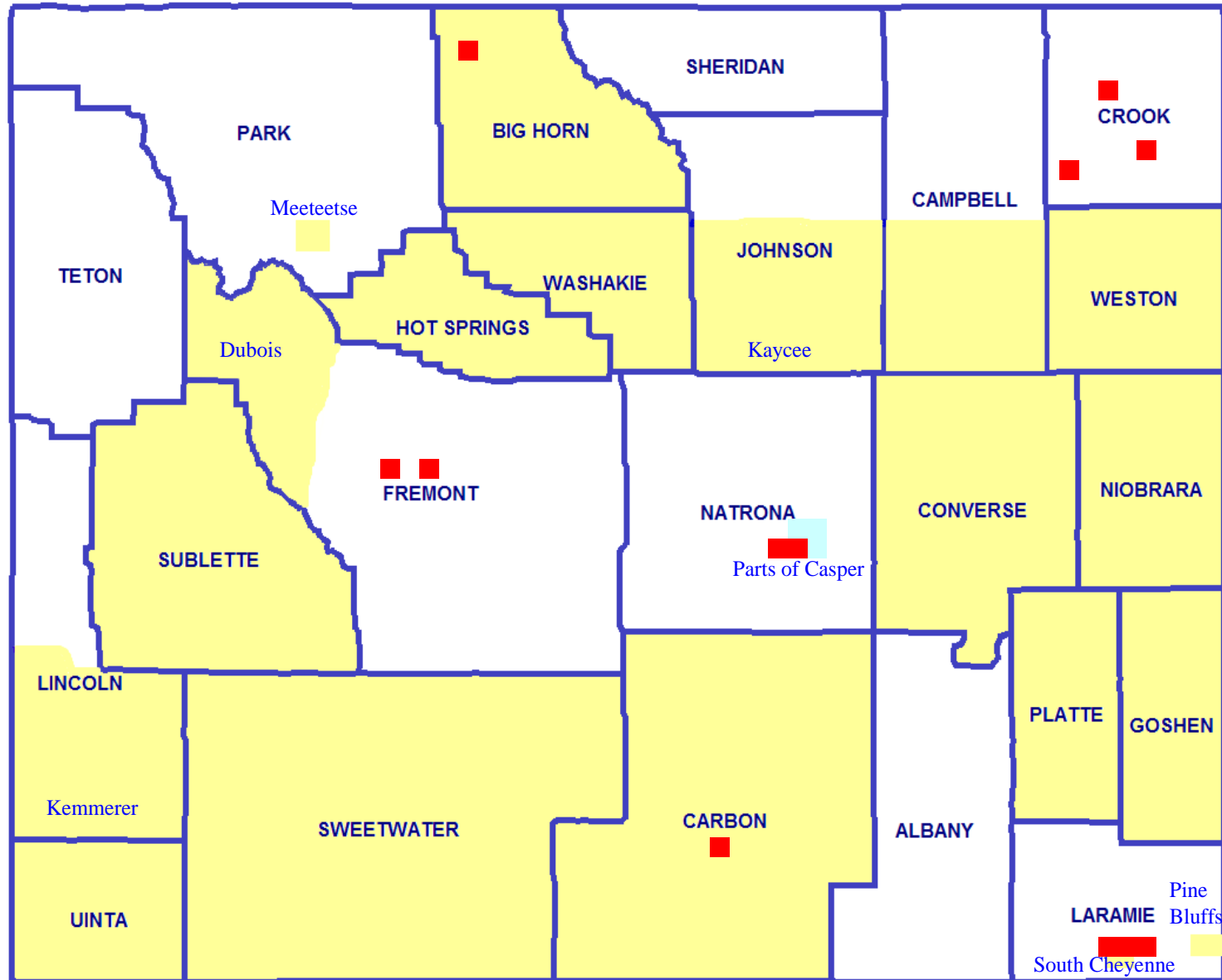
Frontier

- < 6 people per square mile
- Wyoming is a “Frontier” State
 - 522,830 people
 - 97,100 square miles
 - 5.4 people per square mile
- 17 of 23 counties have < 6 people per square mile

RURAL HEALTHCARE IN WYOMING

- **Health Professional Shortage Areas**
(based on provider/population ratio; geography; income and/or facility)
 - Primary Care (20 of 23 counties)
 - Dental (13 of 23 counties)
 - Mental Health (entire state)
- **Critical Access Hospitals**
(> 35-mile drive from other hospital; < 26 inpatient beds; average LOS of 96 hours; and 24/7 emergency services)
 - 14 of 27 hospitals statewide

PRIMARY CARE PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS (APRIL 2008)



Notes:

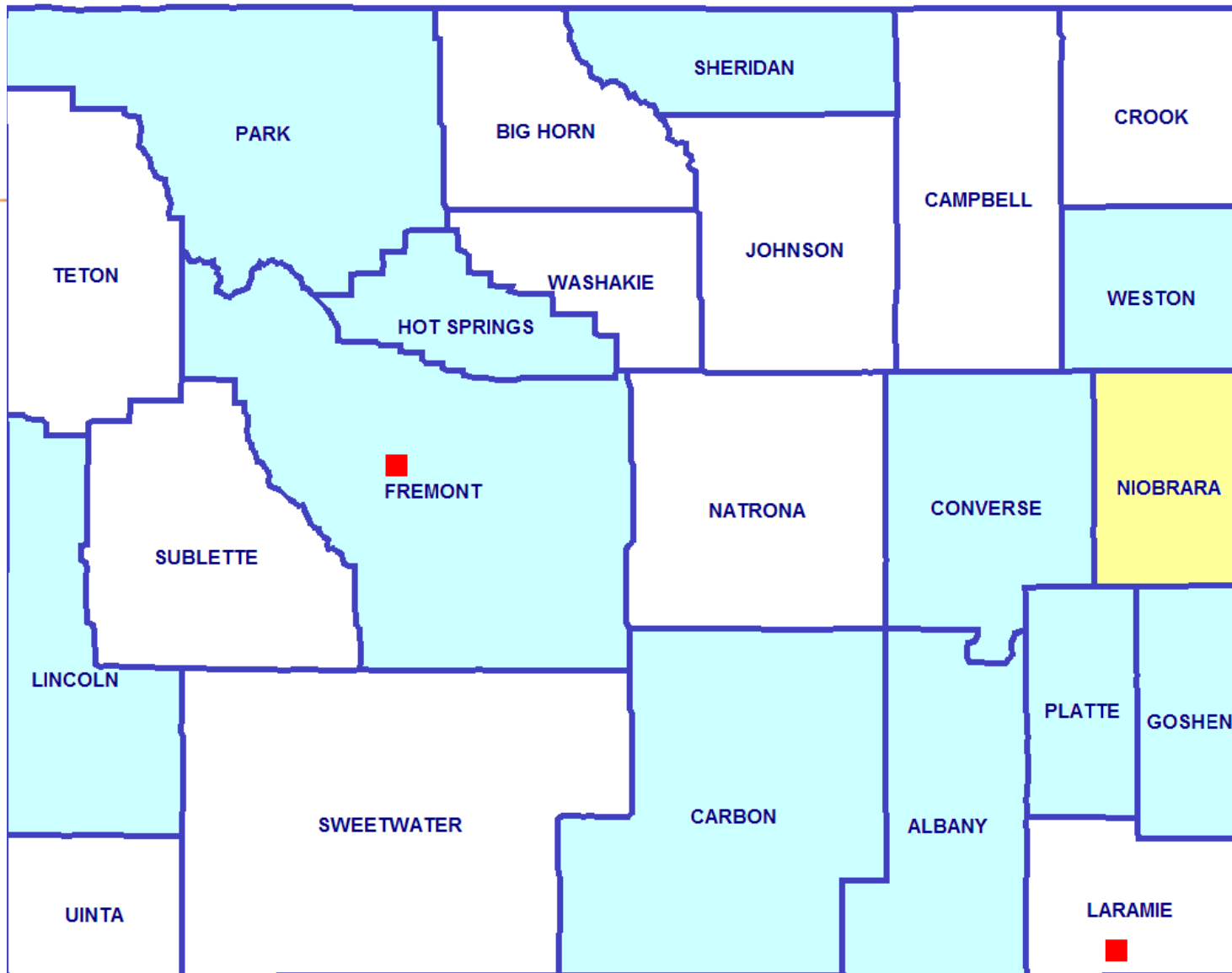
In addition to the county/city designations, the following facility designations exist:




Hulett RHC, Moorcroft RHC, Sundance RHC, Arapahoe IHS, Wind River Health, Strong Tree RHC in Big Horn County, CHC in Casper, Human Service Com. in Casper, State Pen. in Carbon County, Migrant Health in Cheyenne, Com. Action in Cheyenne, Health & Wellness Center in Cheyenne

For an up-to-date listing, please visit <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov>



DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS (APRIL 2008)



-  Geographic HPSA
-  Low-Income HPSA
-  Facility HPSA

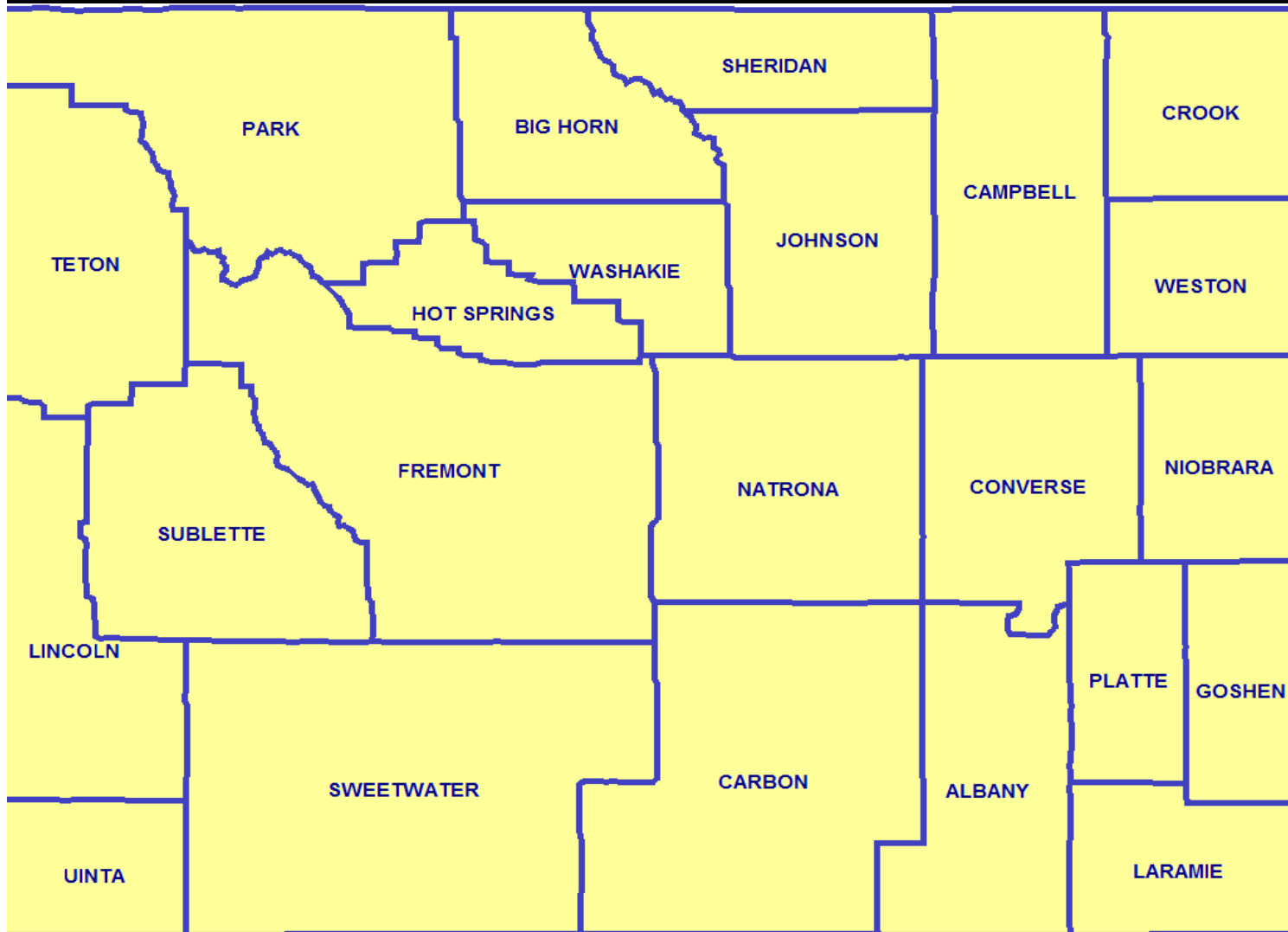
Notes:

In addition to the county designations, the following facility designations exist:

White River Health in Fremont County, Health & Wellness Center in Laramie County.

For an up-to-date listing, please visit <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov>

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS (APRIL 2008)



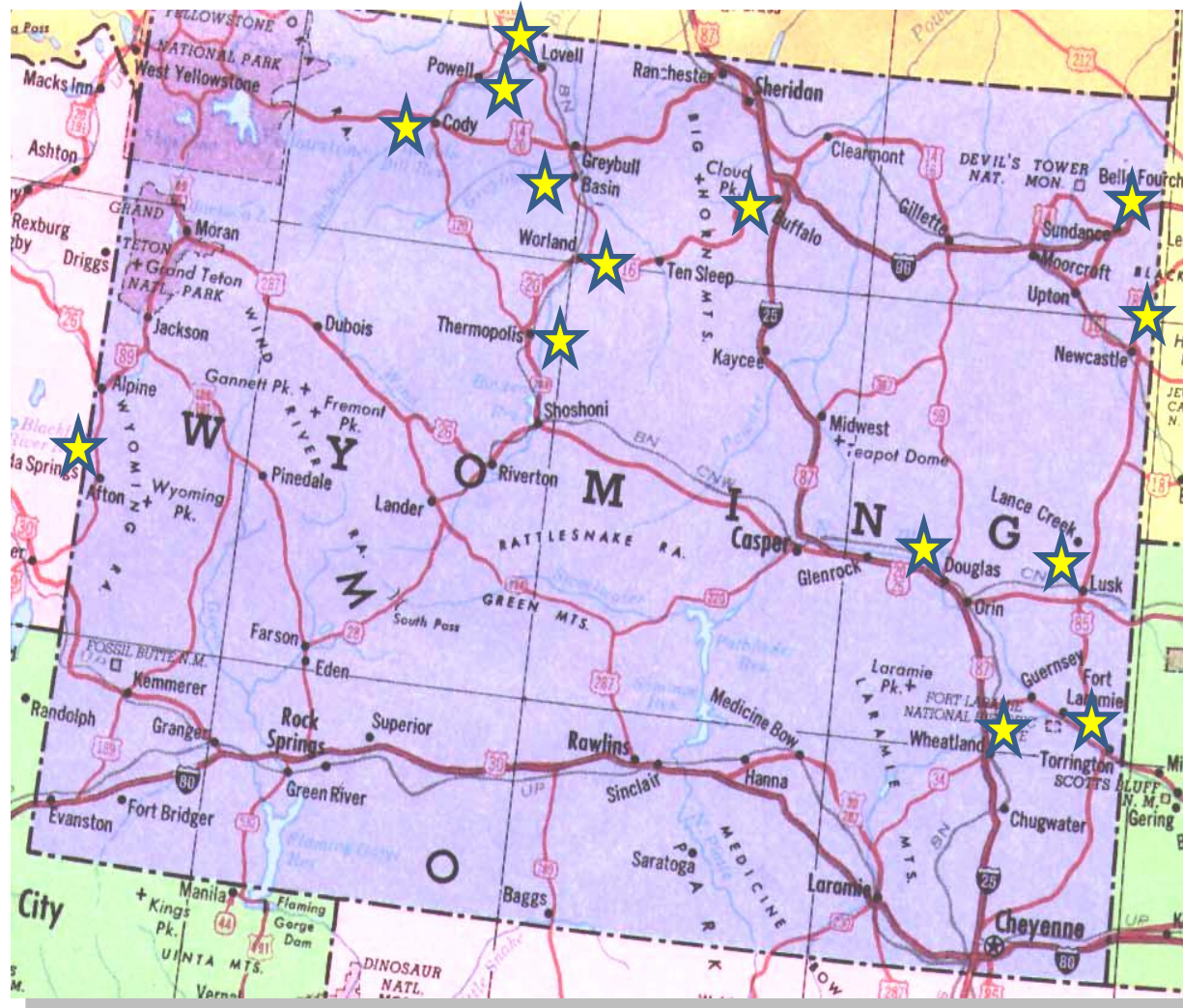
 Geographic HPSA

Notes:

All of Wyoming is currently designated a Geographic Mental Health Professional Shortage Area.

For an up-to-date listing, please visit <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov>

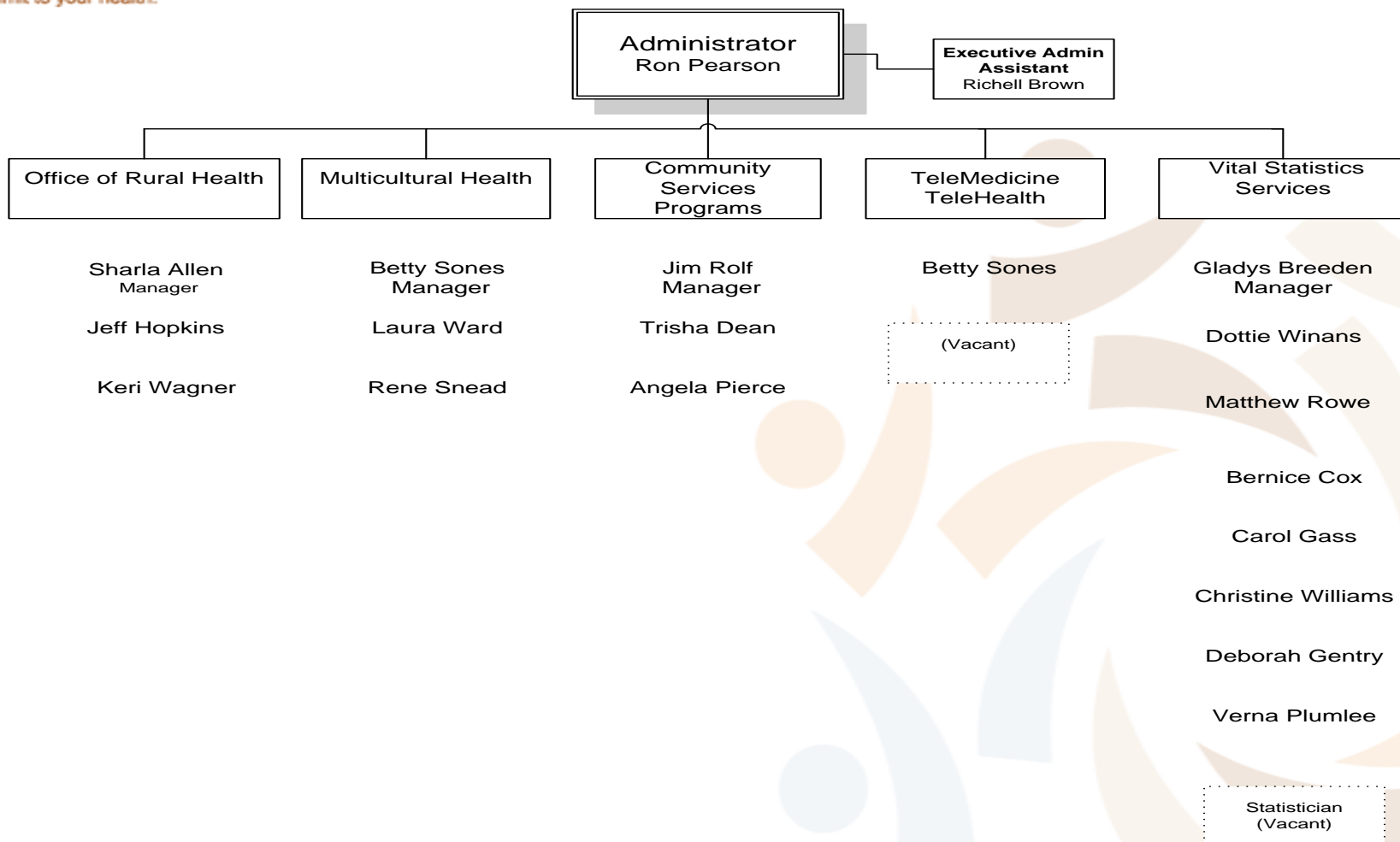
CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS



Afton	Cody	Lusk	Sundance
Wheatland			
Basin	Douglas	Newcastle	Thermopolis
Worland			
Buffalo	Lovell	Powell	Torrington

Rural and Frontier Health Division

June 6, 2008



Office of Rural Health

- **State Office of Rural Health Grant** (\$590,800)
 - Provider Recruitment and Retention
 - Technical Assistance
 - Grant Conference Travel
- **Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (FLEX) Grant** (\$420,000)
 - Supports Critical Access Hospitals
 - Emergency Medical Services integration
 - Quality and Performance Improvement
 - Network Development
- **Small Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) Grant** (\$172,000)
 - HIPAA
 - Quality Assurance
 - Prospective Payment System
- **Community Assessment Grants** (\$275,000)
 - Provide communities with snapshot of their healthcare delivery system
- **Hospital Improvement Grants** (\$1M)
 - Help hospitals improve nursing and patient care

Office of Rural Health

(Cont'd)

Commit to your health.

- **Physician Recruitment Program** (\$400,000 state funds for 2009-2010)
- **Provider Loan Repayment Program** (\$2,000,000 state funds for 2009-2010)
- **J-1 Visa Waiver Program** - allows foreign-born physicians to practice in medically underserved areas
- **National Health Service Corps** - provides scholarships and medical education loan repayment programs for certain healthcare professions in return for serving in underserved areas
- **WY Primary Care Office** (\$98,000)
 - Coordinate designations of Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas/Populations
 - Support federally-funded health centers in providing primary health services
 - Improve primary care service delivery and workforce availability

Multicultural Health

- **State Partnership Grant (\$125K/yr)**
 - Funds Wyoming Health Disparity State Plan
- **Wyoming Multicultural Health Advisory Committee**
 - Improve health inequities that challenge minorities and underserved populations
 - Identify existing healthcare gaps and analyze data
 - Consult with health professionals, community advocates, and policy makers
 - Build community skills, capacities, and leadership

Community Services Programs

- **Community Services Block Grant** (\$3.3M/yr/HHS)
 - Provide assistance for local communities to reduce poverty
 - Revitalize low-income communities
 - Empower low-income individuals/families to become self-sufficient
- **Emergency Shelter Grant** (\$180K/yr/HUD)
 - Provide emergency shelter/support services for homeless and low-income persons
- **End Stage Renal Disease Program** (\$800K/yr/State)
 - Assist low income persons with expense of chronic renal disease after Medicare and private insurance have been billed
- **Organ Donation Program** (WY Cares / WY Shares)
 - Educate public on importance of organ donation and to increase number of organ donors in Wyoming

TeleHealth/TeleMedicine

- Support development of high-speed network connecting hospitals, mental health clinics, and substance abuse treatment centers state-wide
- Partner for statewide access to Telehealth-CME
- Stroke-Telehealth program for remote, internet based evaluation and diagnosis of stroke

Vital Statistics Services

- Vital Events Registration
(births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, divorces)
- Vital Statistics
- Vital Health Information

Meeting the Challenges

Challenge

- Long distances/time to healthcare
- Access to care, insufficient providers, and mal-distribution of providers

WDH/RFHD Support

- TeleHealth/TeleMedicine
- Physician Recruitment
- Loan Repayment
- J-1 Visa Waiver
- National Service Corps
- Designation of medically underserved and health professional shortage areas

Meeting the Challenges

Challenge

- **Sustainability of small community hospitals**
- **Improve quality of patient care**

WDH/RFHD Support

- **Critical Access designation**
- **FLEX grant**
- **Small Hospital Improvement Grant**
- **Hospital Improvement Grant**
- **FLEX Grant**
- **Small Hospital Improvement Grant**
- **Hospital Improvement Grant**
- **TeleHealth/TeleMedicine**

Meeting the Challenges

Challenge

- **Maintain responsive and capable EMS**
- **Reduce health disparities**
- **Reduce poverty and build self-sufficiency**
- **Serve Wyoming People**

WDH/RFHD Support

- **FLEX Grant**
- **State Partnership Grant**
- **Community Services Block Grant**
- **Emergency Shelter Grant**
- **End-Stage Renal Disease Program**
- **Vital Statistics Services**
- **WY Cares/WY Shares**

IMPACT

- **\$3,480,000 (1yr) for emergency/medical needs of low-income people**
- **\$6,000,000 (2yrs) in loan repayments to 170 healthcare providers**
- **75,754 certified certificates in 1 year with average 3-day turnaround**
- **Collected \$814,000 in fees for Vital Statistics Services**
 - **\$379,000 to WY Children's Trust Fund**
 - **\$435,000 to General Fund**
- **\$120,800 for 18 EMT training and Rural Trauma Team Development classes to 135 EMS directors and staff state-wide**
- **\$89,000 for quality and performance improvement programs in 14 Critical Access Hospitals**
- **\$180,000 for Tele-Stroke Pilot Project, CME, and TeleHealth network**

IMPACT

- **\$92,000 for Behavioral Modification Treatment Plan for American Indians; Diabetes screening and education for migrant workers, and Interpreter Network development**
- **\$182,500 in support of 2,499 homeless people**
- **143 Wyoming people with renal disease receive financial assistance**

WDH Chief of Staff

“The WDH has created the RFHD to respond to existing healthcare issues and build a frontier and rural healthcare system for Wyoming’s future.”

***Ginny Mahoney, M.A.
Chief of Staff
Wyoming Department of Health
April 2008***